

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following abstract to the end of the application:

An optical amplifier is described that comprises at least two sections of amplifying optical fibre and pumping means for optically pumping the amplifying optical fibre. Optical fibre support means, for example a channel or channels in a substrate, are also provided to hold the two or more sections of amplifying optical fibre substantially straight during use. The optical fibre support means also includes a means for coupling light between the at least two sections of amplifying optical fibre. The at least one amplifying optical fibre may comprise an Erbium doped core to provide an erbium doped fibre amplifier (EDFA).